



The President's Daily Brief

30 September 1970



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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(information as of 2000 EDT 29 September)

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in the Middle East is discussed on
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The Cambodian Government may end its Route 6 operation.
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The Soviets plan a brief restriction of Allied air traffic to Berlin.
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U-2 photography from 27 September reveals no significant new activity in Cuba.
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MIDDLE EAST

Cairo was relatively quiet and orderly on 29 September. The Egyptians have strengthened their guard around the US Mission and more police are in the city. There were some Arab demonstrations in Israeli-occupied Gaza, East Jerusalem, and the West Bank.

In Amman, the army and the fedayeen appear to have arrived at a modus vivendi, leaving the fedayeen in more or less uncontested control of some areas. Little recent firing has occurred. Arrangements for evacuating fedayeen and army troops from the city still pose a major obstacle to enforcement of the Cairo agreement, since neither side seems prepared to make the first move.

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The Lebanese Government believes the fedayeen will begin to shift greater numbers of commandos into Lebanon, probably within the next two weeks. President Franjiyah, who is more tough-minded than his predecessor, is prepared to act firmly if he thinks Lebanon's sovereignty is affected by increased fedayeen operations. Moreover, the army--as in Jordan--is anxious to move against the fedayeen, but their limited firepower may serve as a brake. Our embassy believes the government will wait for the fedayeen to start any confrontation.

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Ambassador Brown has met with the six released American hostages at the Muashir Hospital in Amman. The hostages were all in excellent spirits and are scheduled to depart early on 30 September for Athens en route to New York.

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CAMBODIA

The commander of the Route 6 task force is quoted as saying that the government intends to abandon the drive toward Kompong Thom in favor of "killing North Vietnamese and Viet Cong." There is no confirmation from Phnom Penh, however, that such a decision has been made. Government troops on Route 6 meanwhile are consolidating their positions around the village of Tang Kouk.

In the past few days there have been additional harassing attacks on government positions and traffic along Route 4 southwest of Phnom Penh and Route 5 northwest of the capital.

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USSR-BERLIN

Yesterday the Soviets informed the Western Allies in Berlin that they were closing an area west of the city to air traffic up to 3,000 meters (9,843 feet) for a two-hour period early this morning. Allied traffic to Berlin flies near or below this altitude, and these restrictions would in effect close the northern and central air corridors. Normally, however, there are no Allied flights in these corridors during the closure period set by the Soviets.

The Soviets made similar attempts to restrict air traffic to Berlin in 1962 and 1965 but did not react when Allied military flights deliberately violated them. The current restrictions coincide with the seventh four-power ambassadorial meeting in Berlin today and appear to be another test of Western firmness on the issue of Allied access to Berlin.

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NOTE

Cuba: A U-2 photographic mission was flown over Cuba on 27 September. No significant new activity was noted. The next U-2 coverage is scheduled for the morning of 30 September, weather permitting.

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